

# BREAD & PUPPET



THE PASSION OF  
CHICO MENDES

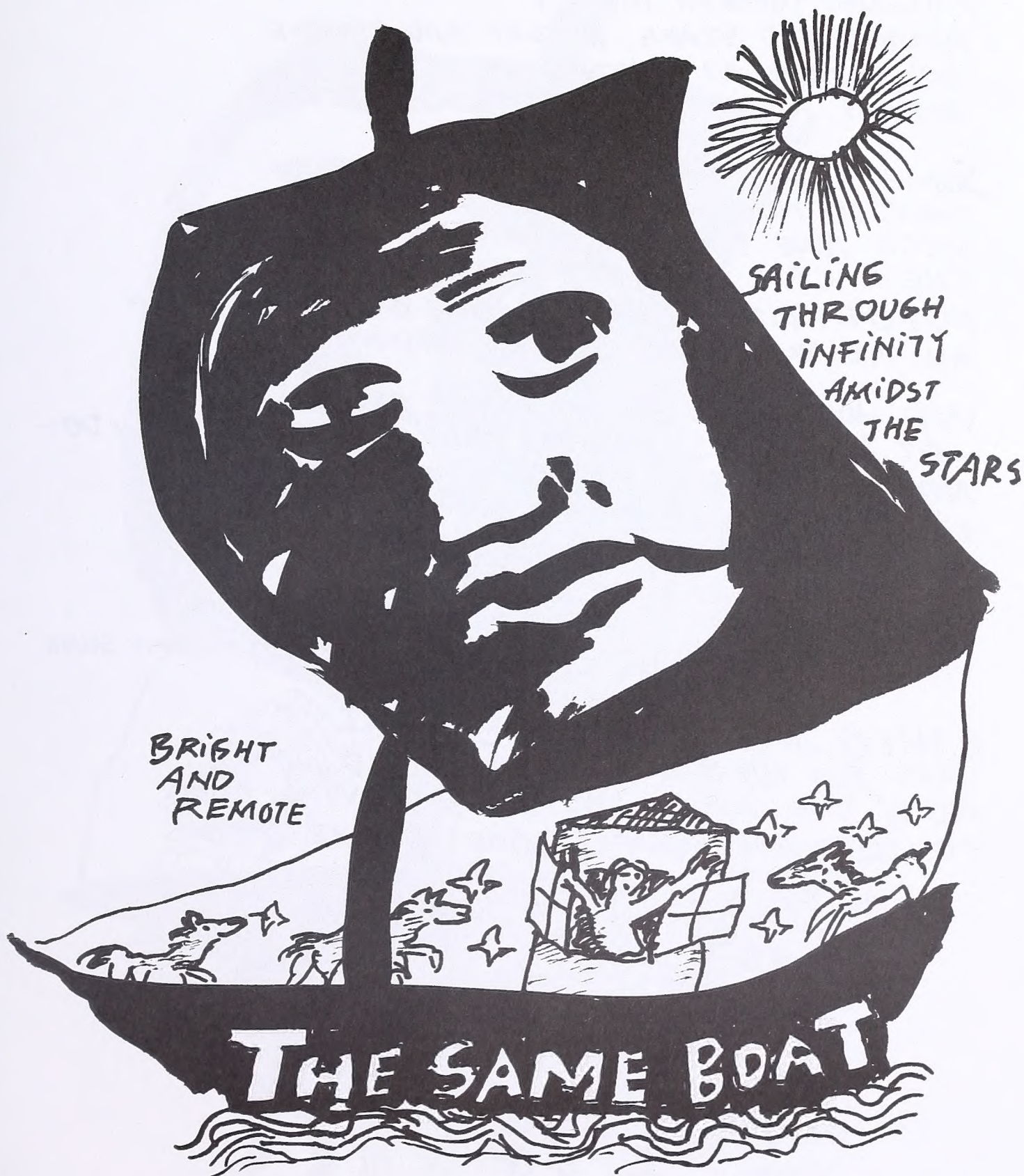
VERSE BY BURT PORTER

1989











OUR EARTH IS LIKE A LITTLE BOAT  
SAILING THROUGH INFINITY  
AMIDST THE STARS, BRIGHT AND REMOTE  
WE VOYAGE ALL UNKNOWINGLY  
ACROSS AN ENDLESS GLITTERING SEA

SOME ARE PASSENGERS ON THE BOAT  
THEY DO NO WORK TO MAKE IT FLOAT.  
SOME ARE PIRATES WHO SEEM TO THINK  
THEY CAN ROB, GET RICH AND LET IT SINK  
FORGETTING THAT IF THE BOAT GOES DOWN  
ALL ABOARD MUST SURELY DROWN

WE HONOR AND RESPECT THE CREW  
- AT LEAST AS LONG AS THEY KNOW WHAT THEY DO -  
NO PLACE ON EARTH IS TOO REMOTE  
TO BE A VITAL PART OF THE BOAT.  
THE FOREST OF THE AMAZON  
HELPS ALL LIFE TO CONTINUE ON  
AND THOSE WHO FIGHT TO SAVE THE TREES  
HELP SAIL OUR BOAT THROUGH STORMY SEAS.

CHICO MENDES OF BRAZIL  
WAS AN HONEST MAN WHO DID NO ILL.  
NOW WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW HE TRIED  
TO SAVE THE FOREST, AND HOW HE DIED





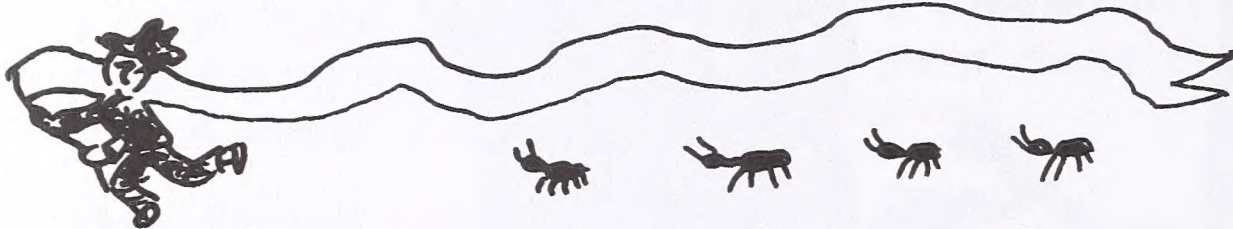


IF THE BOAT GOES DOWN  
ALL ABOARD MUST SURELY  
DROWN



WEATHERMAN :

CUTTING THE FOREST WILL UPSET  
THE BALANCE OF OUR ATMOSPHERE  
THAT WE DEPEND ON FOR OUR LIVES  
WHERE WILL WE LIVE IF WE CAN'T LIVE HERE?  
COME WITH US, DON'T BE AFRAID  
WE'LL SAVE THE FOREST, JOIN OUR PARADE !



MUSICIAN :

MY MUSIC IS INSPIRED BY  
THE SINGING OF THE FOREST BIRDS  
NO SONG SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DIE  
EVEN IF IT HAS NO WORDS



ATHLETE :

I NEED MORE OXYGEN THAN MOST  
SO I AM ONE WHO REALLY KNOWS  
THERE'S OXYGEN ENOUGH FOR ME  
ONLY IF THE FOREST GROWS



DOCTOR :

EVEN MODERN MEDICINE  
STILL DERIVES FROM FOREST PLANTS  
WHO KNOWS WHAT CURES WE STILL MAY FIND ?  
IF THE FOREST LIVES WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE  
COME WITH US, DON'T BE AFRAID  
WE'LL SAVE THE FOREST, JOIN OUR PARADE !





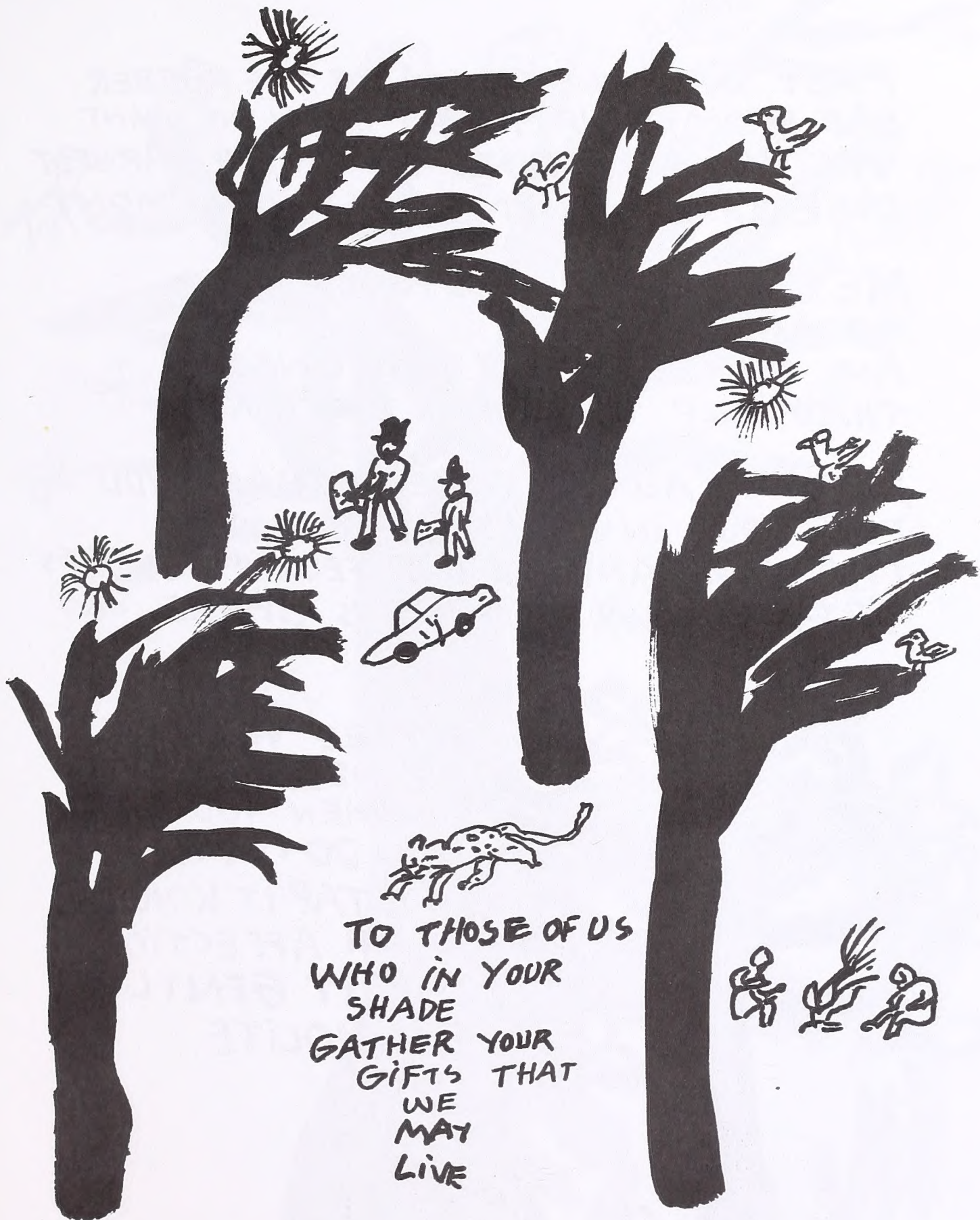
WHERE WILL  
WE  
LIVE  
IF WE  
CAN'T  
LIVE  
HERE





RAIN FOREST  
WE COME TO  
THANK YOU  
FOR THE THINGS  
YOU FREELY  
GIVE  
TO THOSE OF US  
WHO IN YOUR  
SHADE  
GATHER YOUR  
GIFTS THAT WE  
MAY LIVE





TO THOSE OF US  
WHO IN YOUR  
SHADE  
GATHER YOUR  
GIFTS THAT  
WE  
MAY  
LIVE



FIRST WE THANK YOU FOR THE RUBBER  
SAP FROM YOUR TREES IS ALL WE WANT  
WE HARM NOTHING WHEN WE HARVEST  
LIKE THE SUGARMAKERS IN VERMONT

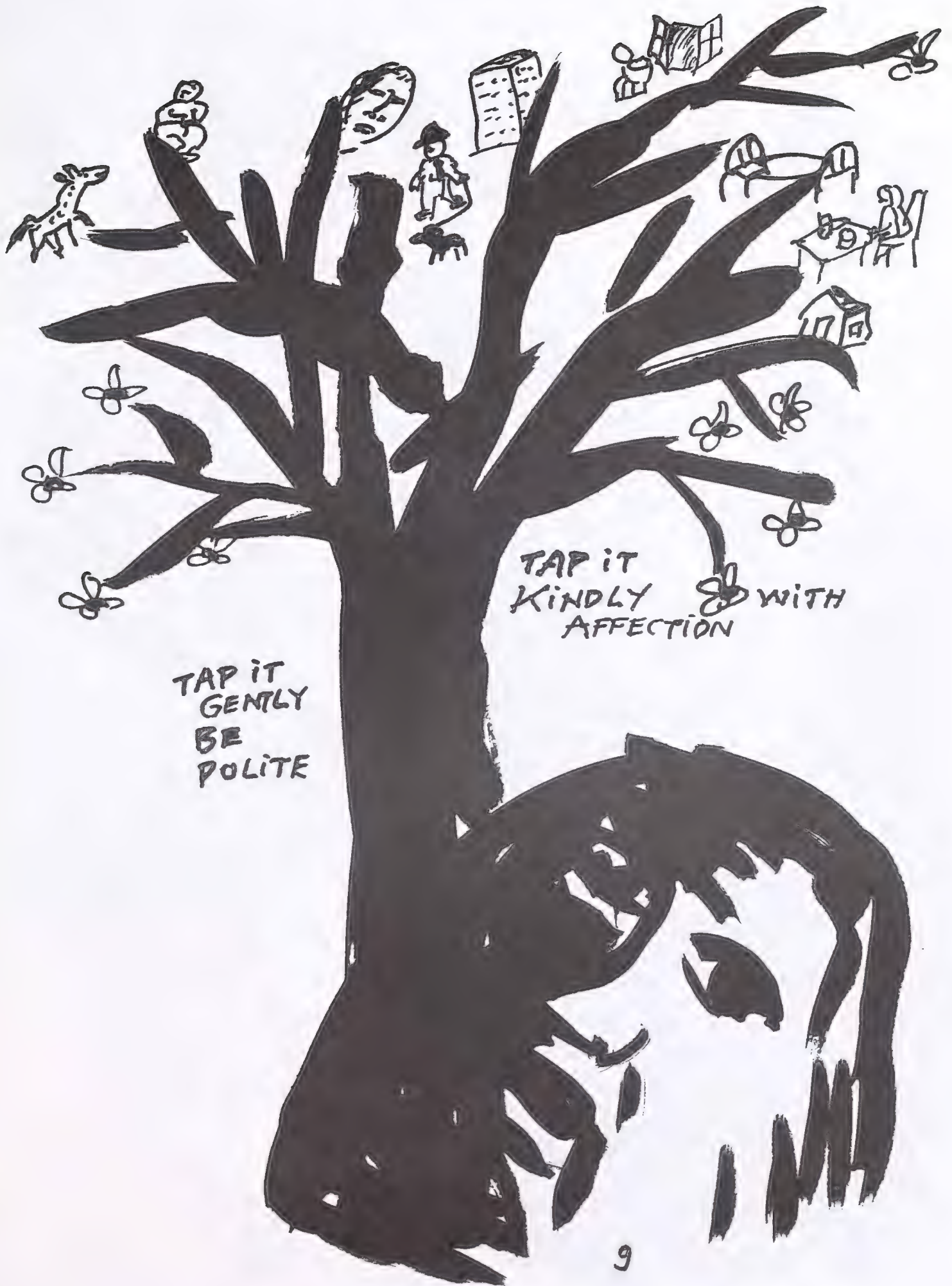
NEXT WE THANK YOU FOR THE FRUITS  
AGUAJILO, AGUAJE  
AND THE HERBS FOR MEDICINES  
THAT HELP THE SICK IN EVERY WAY

MOST OF ALL WE COME TO THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR INVISIBLE GIFT OF AIR  
THAT WE AND ALL OUR FELLOW CREATURES  
BREATHE AND ALL AMONG US SHARE



A TREE WILL LIVE  
A HUNDRED YEARS  
IF WHEN YOU TAP  
YOU DO IT RIGHT  
SO TAP IT KINDLY  
WITH AFFECTION  
TAP IT GENTLY  
BE POLITE





TAP IT  
GENTLY  
BE  
POLITE

TAP IT  
KINDLY WITH  
AFFECTION



# WATCH OUT!












i AM A POLITICIAN  
YOU CAN SPEAK OUT AND HAVE YOUR SAY  
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS I GET MY WAY  
WE ARE COMING IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS  
GOOD TIMES COMING NOW YOU BET  
WHEN THE ROAD IS BUILT WE'LL CUT THE FOREST  
AND THEN PAY OFF THE NATIONAL DEBT





I AM  
A POOR  
MAN  
I'VE GOT  
NOTHING

AND I DON'T SEE  
HOW COME  
EVERYONE'S GOT  
MORE THAN ME

I DON'T CARE ABOUT TOMORROW  
I NEED A JOB RIGHT NOW. TODAY  
IF I CAN HELP THEM BUILD THEIR ROAD  
I'LL FEED MY FAMILY WITH MY PAY



I'M A PATRIOT THIS COUNTRY IS WHERE  
I BELONG, IT'S MY COUNTRY RIGHT OR WRONG  
I LOVE OUR COUNTRY PROUD  
PROGRESSIVE FUTURISTIC BRAZIL  
AND WE DON'T NEED ANY  
NORTH AMERICANS  
TRYING TO TELL US  
WHAT TO DO !



I'M CHICO MENDES, COME TO HELP YOU  
DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS AND TAKE A STAND  
LET'S STOP THE BIG DEVELOPERS  
IN THEIR GREEDY SEARCH FOR LAND

WHAT WE CAN HARVEST FROM THE FOREST  
IN THE LONGRUN IS WORTH FAR MORE  
THAN CUTTING TIMBER AND GRAZING CATTLE  
WHERE OUR ANCESTORS LIVED BEFORE  
IF NONE ARE GREEDY AND ALL ARE FAIR  
THERE'S LAND ENOUGH FOR ALL TO SHARE

MARTIN LUTHER KING AND GHANDI  
TEACH US THE NON-VIOLENT WAY  
LET'S LINK ARMS AND STAND TOGETHER  
THAT'S HOW WE MAKE AN EMPATE





LET'S FOLLOW THEM  
AND SEE WHAT  
THEY DO  
THEY'D WIPE  
US OUT IF  
THEY COULD



LET'S FOLLOW  
THEM AND SEE  
WHAT THEY PLAN

WHATEVER  
IT IS THEY'RE  
UP TO NO  
GOOD



WORLD BANK :

I AM THE WORLD BANK

WHETHER TIMES WILL BE FAT OR LEAN

A DOLLAR WILL MEAN WHAT I SAY IT WILL MEAN

WE CAN ARRANGE 500 MILLION

DOLLARS IN YOUR HANDS TODAY

IF YOU CAN BE COOPERATIVE

AND MAKE THE FOREST GO AWAY

McDONALDS :

I'M McDONALDS

I FEED YOUR FACE AND STUFF YOUR GUT

WHILE BIG SHOTS LINE UP TO KISS MY BUTT

I'M FOR THE FUTURE, AND THE FUTURE LIES

AS WE ALL KNOW IN RAISING MEAT

YOU FUSS ABOUT CHOLESTEROL

BUT BURGERS ARE WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT :

I'M THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL

IF I DON'T SELL OUT SOMEONE ELSE WILL

CLEARING THE FOREST IS A GOOD IDEA

FOR STABILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL WEALTH

IT'S SUCH A COMPLICATED DEAL

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MUCH MYSELF

THE RUBBERTAPPERS ARE COMING TO

SO I ASK YOU TO RISE AND GIVE A GREETING  
THEIR UNION MEETING

TO JUDAS THE OWNER OF THE FOREST LAND  
WHERE THE RUBBERTAPPERS TAKE THEIR STAND





I AM FOR THE  
FUTURE

AND  
17

THE  
FUTURE



JUDAS :

THE PIECE OF FOREST THAT I OWN  
THEY MADE AN EXTRACTIVE RESERVE  
THAT MEANS THOSE PEONS GET THE MONEY  
THAT I JUDAS REALLY DESERVE.

I KNOW THE LEADER WHO HEADS THEIR  
UNION

LET'S KILL HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT  
IT'S WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE BEFORE  
WE'RE IN THIS THING TOO DEEP TO QUIT

YOU KNOW IT'S RIGHT. WE NEED TO DO IT  
WE'LL ALL SLEEP EASIER WHEN HE'S SHOT  
CHICO MENDES IS WHAT THEY CALL HIM  
LET'S SEE WHO DRAWS THE FATAL LOT.

THE RUBBERTAPPERS ARE COMING  
YOU GUYS GET OUT  
WE KNOW WHAT TO DO AND WHAT  
WE'RE ABOUT

I'LL HANDLE THIS, I KNOW WHAT TO DO  
BUT THEY CAN'T SEE ME BEING HERE  
WITH YOU.

WELCOME RUBBERTAPPERS WELCOME!  
YOU'RE THE GUYS I'M GLAD TO SEE  
YOU'RE THE HEROES WHO HAVE WON  
A TERRIFIC VICTORY  
IF YOU DON'T MIND I'LL JOIN YOUR MEETING  
AND HELP YOU OUT WITH WHAT YOU'VE  
PLANNED  
IT'S JUST MY NATURE TO BE HELPFULL  
TO TRY TO HELP AND UNDERSTAND





CHICO MENDES:

WE WHO  
HARVEST  
FROM THE  
FOREST  
GENTLY  
TAKE WHAT  
WE CAN  
USE  
WE WERE  
PART OF  
AN ECO-  
SYSTEM  
BEFORE  
ECOLOGY  
WAS BIG  
NEWS

OF ALL THOSE WHO  
CRY AND WORRY  
ABOUT THE FOREST'S  
SAD DECLINE  
WE ARE THE ONLY  
ONES WHO'VE  
DARED TO LAY  
OUR LIVES  
DOWN ON  
THE LINE

IT IS BECAUSE  
OF OUR EMPATHY  
THAT WE HAVE  
WON THE RIGHT  
TODAY TO KEEP  
ON USING PART  
OF THE FOREST  
IN OUR OLD TRADITIONAL  
WAY







AND SO  
i WANT  
TO LIVE  
BECAUSE  
A LOT OF  
TALK



AND  
MANY  
BURIALS  
WON'T  
SAVE THE  
AMAZON



①



CHICO MENDES AN  
HONEST MAN WAS  
BORN IN 1944

②



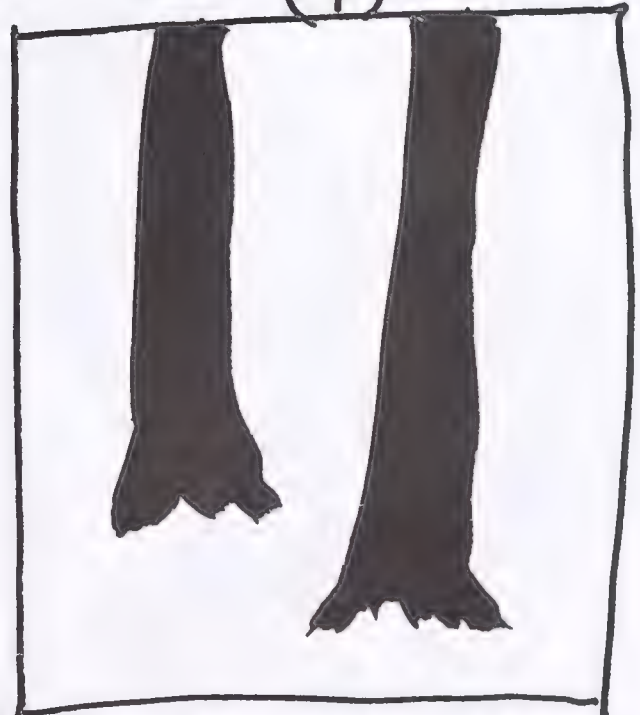
WHEN 8 YEARS  
OLD

③



HE WENT TO  
WORK

④



HARVESTING LATEX  
ON THE FOREST FLOOR



5



THE RUBBER BARONS  
GAVE THE TAPPERS

6



ACCOUNTS THAT OFTEN  
WERE NOT RIGHT

7



SO THAT THE WORKERS  
WOULD NOT BE CHEATED

8



CHICO TAUGHT THEM  
TO READ AND WRITE



9



5 TIMES THE LAND-  
OWNERS' HIRED MEN  
HAVE TRIED TO KILL HIM

10



THEY WANT  
HIM DEAD

11



5 TIMES CHICO  
HAS GOT AWAY

12



BUT WE FEAR  
WHAT LIES AHEAD



ON DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> CHICO MENDES AN HONEST  
MAN STEPPED OUT IN HIS OWN BACKYARD  
TO TAKE A SHOWER THE KILLER  
RAN . LEFT CHICO LYING WHERE  
HE FELL  
BESIDE A  
SMOKING  
SHOTGUN SHELL



IN HIS POCKET THEY FOUND  
2 DOLLARS  
CHICO'S WALLET WAS PRETTY FLAT  
YOU CAN BET THE HIRED KILLER  
GOT PAID A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN  
THAT

IN HIS POCKET THEY FOUND  
2 DOLLARS  
NOT VERY MUCH TO YOU OR ME  
BUT THERE IS MORE THAN JUST  
2 DOLLARS  
IN CHICO MENDES' LEGACY















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